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is more competent to prepare such a work than Professor Evans. It will be creditable to American scholarship if one of our countrymen can do for the literature of Germany what Gervinus and Taine have done for the literature of England.

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9. — *Publications of the Prince Society. The Andros Tracts.* Boston: Prince Society. Vols. I. and II. 4to. pp. liv., 215; xxiv., 346.

THE Revolution of 1689 delivered New England from a tyranny much more oppressive than that from which she was rescued ninety years later, in the reign of King George the Third. Her municipal and legislative institutions, almost coeval with the settlements, had been abolished. Laws were made, taxes levied, courts of justice constituted, judicial, executive, and military officers appointed, by functionaries of the king of England. The swarm of blood-suckers whom Governor Andros collected about him from England and New York, — Randolph, West, Palmer, Graham, Foxcroft, Sherlock, — sold justice, or injustice, at excessive rates. The treacherous Dudley lent to the roguery the support of his great talents and intimate local knowledge. Land-titles as old as the Colony were pronounced void, and the holders were ousted, or required to protect themselves by buying new patents of the Governor. Opposition in the towns was punished by heavy fines imposed on the agitators, or by harsher measures, as in the case of the minister of Plymouth, brought to Boston while suffering from a fit of the gout, and kept standing before his questioners till it seemed as if he would die. The miseries of the local administration were not all that troubled the people. Not unreasonably, they feared that King James would establish Popery in England; and if in England, why not in Massachusetts Bay?

Who were the plotters, and what the consultations, in Boston in the winter of 1688 and 1689, will never be fully known. As early as September, Charles Morton (formerly teacher, in England, of Defoe) preached in Charlestown such a sermon as would have brought him to trial for treason, had not the prosecuting officer been of the opinion that "there were not honest men in Middlesex to make a jury to serve their turn." In November the Prince of Orange landed in England, but he might as well have landed in the moon for any intelligence the Bostonians could have had of his movements for months afterwards, as voyages were then made. On the 4th of April came news from the West Indies of his being on English ground. What the issue of the adventure would be, was of course all uncertain; for, weeks later, the Prince was

still in the west, with a fine army in front of him, across his way to London. But Boston could not wait. On the 19th of April (a day made thrice memorable in Massachusetts annals, — by the first battle of American Independence, eighty-six years later, and by the firing, in Baltimore, on Massachusetts troops, eighty-six years later yet), Andros surrendered to the townspeople the hold on Fort Hill, to which he had withdrawn with his Regulars, and from that day to this he and his king cease to belong to New England history.

Though in the circumstances there could not fail to be great unanimity among the ill-used and insulted people, yet the talking and writing and acting were not entirely on one side. There was spirit also on the other, to support a party animosity which ran extremely high. At that time as well as at other times, there were office-holders and office-seekers who knew how to argue that what put money into their pockets was for the public good and honor. The Governor had about him a set of omnivorous adventurers from abroad, who had no interest in Massachusetts but to pluck her. Joseph Dudley was not the only recreant native, nor was he the only one among the Governor's satellites possessed of eminent capacity. The stranger Randolph was cunning and indefatigable; Palmer was a well-read English lawyer; the Scot Graham did no discredit to his nation's character for craft; and others acted their parts in the matter not lazily nor unskillfully. Boston was already a place of some wealth, acquired by commercial enterprise, and there had collected in it a knot of money-making adventurers from England, who were warm for Church and King, and against liberty and psalm-singing. The liturgy of the Church of England had been read in Boston on Sundays and holidays for three years; and though the congregation was not large, it was composed of material which the Governor might securely trust in.

There was plenty of writing and printing on both sides; and accordingly there are few interesting passages of history better elucidated, except as to those preparatory consultations in respect to which history never gets satisfactory light, unless from the private letters of the actors, when by good fortune these have been preserved to after-times. Of course, in important respects the best authorities for historical composition are writings of a time immediately subsequent to the events recorded. But there is one important qualification of this remark. Contemporaries can have no correct conception of the perspective of an historical picture. The relative importance of events is not disclosed to them. One would not think of looking into a newspaper of June 18, 1775, for an expression of the thoughts appropriate to the action of the day before on Bunker Hill. But, further, different classes of contemporaneous writings have to be discriminated from one another

in respect to their value as authentic records. The newspaper paragraphs must, for the most part, be written and printed not only before the bearing of facts can be estimated, but before facts can be positively ascertained; and in times of party excitement allowance must be made, or rather distrust must be practised, for the disingenuousness which is likely to pervert the utterances of that reckless monster, the ephemeral press. Memoirs printed with the name of the writer may be used with more confidence, — both as being prepared with superior deliberation and wariness, and as affording, through knowledge of the writer's character, a clew to the knowledge of the passions, prejudices, positions, relations, which may have biased or blinded him. An historian delights in getting possession of private letters of the actors in great events, and of their confidants. But it is at his peril if he trusts them implicitly. Actors in great events are liable to have some motive for misleading their correspondents, and the misrepresentations which they are tempted to make are the safer for being made in confidence. And even what they write the most honestly to a friend, they will not write with the same caution, or with the same wholesome sense of responsibility, as if it were to be submitted to unfriendly or impartial criticism.

There was no newspaper in British America till thirteen years after 1689. There survive not many private letters, probably none from which the sense has not already been extracted for elucidation of the transactions of the period. The pamphlet publications of that day were numerous, but the copies of them still extant are so rare that they are scarcely to be found except in a few public libraries.\* The plan of Mr. Whitmore has a capital unity and completeness. In two beautiful volumes he has reprinted the pamphlets and official papers of the period between the deposition of Andros and the granting of the provincial charter of Massachusetts, adding a few pieces, hitherto unpublished, from the archives of Massachusetts and from other sources, and illustrating the whole with a series of learned notes, extremely curious and useful. The collection conveys a very complete idea of the politics, the troubles, and the wrangles of the time. We think Mr. Whitmore judges the principal character too favorably. That King William employed him after his *imbroglio* in New England, and that he administered Virginia without discredit, is no offset to his indecent misdeeds among the Puritan colonists. He had a despotic and insolent nature,

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\* Mr. Whitmore thinks (p. 190) that the copy from which he prints the "Account of the Late Revolutions in New England, by A. B.," may be unique. We have however seen, and made extracts from, another copy, — we believe in the British Museum.

which was quite after the heart of King James the Second, and which had been vigorously trained in the household of Prince Rupert's mother; and every month of the years since the Restoration had laid up in him its store of venom against the spawn of Round-heads whom he came to teach their place. That was no reason why King William should not employ him in another government. The stern Dutchman liked him not at all the less for his idolatry of prerogative. The new king did not want on his hands the trouble that would be sure to be made if he should send Andros back again to Boston; but there was another colony which for other reasons needed to be held with a tight hand; and the fact that Sir Edmund had been the unflinching instrument of the last tyrant of the Stuart line secured him only the more favorable reception in Virginia when Virginia was to be brought into submission to the elected sovereign. And Andros was a man of sense enough always to know whom he had to deal with. In his new place he could not but act under a salutary conviction that there was watching him from across the water an eye which it was not easy to elude, and that altogether his best safety was in good behavior; — good behavior being now no longer what had been esteemed such in the last reign. The cold and politic king of the Revolution might have often to conceal his knowledge of the treachery of those immediately about him, but any eccentricities on the part of a governor of Virginia would be pretty sure to be brought to a swift reckoning. Andros was not so romantically devoted to the legitimate monarch but that he could consent to serve the usurper when the usurper sat firm in the saddle; and if he undertook that service, he knew too well the quality of the Orange blood to indulge himself in indiscretions. That Andros made a good enough governor of Virginia does not, in the circumstances, at all incline us to reverse the judgment which history has passed on his administration of New England.

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10. — *The Invasion of the Crimea: its Origin, and an Account of its Progress, down to the Death of Lord Raglan.* By ALEXANDER WILLIAM KINGLAKE. New York: Harper and Brothers. Vol. II. 12mo. pp. 632.

THE Russian war is a contemporary event, for it is but thirteen years since it was brought to a close by one of the many important treaties that take their name from Paris; but it seems as remote as that contest which brought the career of Napoleon I. to a termination. Since 1856 the world has seen the Sepoy war, the Italian war,